

REMARKS

Claims 3-8 and 11-28 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment, claims 25-28 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Nguyen and Wu in the March 2, 2004 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

As asserted by Applicants' representative at the March 2 personal interview, neither Mizutome nor Ogino, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest that the excluded predetermined frequency is the frequency of a commercial power supply, as recited in claims 25 and 27. Further, none of the applied references disclose or suggest varying the frequency of the driving signal including continuously varying the signal at frequencies higher than, and lower than, the excluded predetermined frequency, as recited in claims 26 and 28. Support for the features recited in the new claims 25-28 is found in the specification, at least at page 17, lines 15-21, page 18, lines 3-7, page 20, lines 6-9, and in Figure 12.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that new claims 25-28 are patentable over the applied art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-8 and 11-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

George P. Simion
Registration No. 47,089

JAO:GPS/jam

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: March 10, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--